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2 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
3 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
4 ALPINE SATELLITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
5 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
6

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8 TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING PROCEEDINGS
9

10 BEFORE ARNOLD BROWER, HEARING OFFICER
11 NPR-A COORDINATOR

12 Village Community Center
13 Atqasuk, Alaska
14 February 24, 2004
15 7:00 o'clock p.m.
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PANEL:

12 MR. GARY FOREMAN
13 Bureau of Land Management
14 MAYOR ELIZABETH HOLLINGSWORTH
Translator

P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record; 7:00 p.m.)

MR. BROWER: Good evening. For the record, 7:08 p.m., for the record. It is the appointed time to start and I would like to call this hearing to order. I'm Arnold Brower, Jr., and I'm tonight's hearing officer. This hearing is being held for the purpose of providing you an opportunity to make oral comments on the Bureau of Land Management's Alpine Satellite Development Plan Environmental Impact Statement and the related ANILCA 810 Subsistence Evaluation and Finding. Unlike the open house, this is a formal hearing and, as such, we will not be entertaining questions; however, several individuals from BLM and the cooperating agencies in this EIS are here. They will be available to answer questions after the meeting if time allows. At this time I -- (speaks in Inupiak). Liz?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: (Translates)

MR. BROWER: At this time, I would like to turn the floor over briefly to Gary Foreman and -- to tell you something about where we are in the development of the EIS. Gary?

MR. FOREMAN: Thank you, Arnold. Good evening. My name is Gary Foreman. I am with the BLM, the lead agency for this effort and with me tonight, as Arnold said, are people from cooperating agencies. We have, if you'd raise your hands as I introduce you, Colleen Berg from the Environmental Protection Agency and we have Kaye Laughlin from the State of

1 Alaska, and we also have members from our contracting team. We
2 have Mike Nagy and in the back is Cindy Potter. And we'll be
3 around to ask -- answer questions and everything afterwards if
4 there is time.

5 This Draft Environmental Impact Statement is analyzing
6 the impacts of a proposal that has been submitted by
7 ConocoPhillips to develop five new drilling pads near their
8 Alpine facility and tonight ConocoPhillips is here; Mark Majors
9 is representing ConocoPhillips.

10 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: (Translates) (Repeats
11 introductions) Colleen Berg from Environmental what?

12 MR. FOREMAN: Protection Agency.

13 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Protection Agency. Okay.
14 (Continues introductions)

15 MR. FOREMAN: I would like to take just a moment to let
16 you know where we are in our process and if you've got one of
17 our newsletters, you'll see on the front part of it is the
18 schedule for our EIS process. And right now we're right down
19 here at the development of the Draft EIS and we're going
20 through our public meeting process to get information from you
21 folks on our Draft EIS and any of the alternatives that we've
22 developed. Your comments are crucial to us; we really need
23 your comments on this project and please feel free to bring
24 your concerns to us.

25 And at this time, I'd like to turn the hearing back to

1 Mr. Brower so that we can get on to your comments.

2 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: (Translates)

3 MR. BROWER: Thank you for that presentation. There
4 will be additional information on the DEIS and is available at
5 the sign-in table. The Draft EIS is available on the Internet
6 at Alpine-Satellites-EIS.com. All comments provided to BLM and
7 its contractor will be compiled, analyzed, and considered by
8 the BLM and the cooperating agencies in preparing the Final EIS
9 and the Final ANILCA 810 Subsistence Finding. These are
10 scheduled for release in July.

11 In addition to speaking tonight or filling out one of
12 the comment forms provided at the sign-in table, comments can
13 be provided through the Web site or by mailing them to ENTRIX
14 at 3701 East Tudor Road, Suite 208, Anchorage, Alaska 99507.
15 The Web site and ENTRIX's addresses are listed in the
16 newsletter. The deadline for submitting the comments is
17 March 1, 2004.

18 This hearing is one of a series being conducted to
19 obtain the public comments. In addition to tonight's meeting,
20 meetings are -- were held in Nuiqsut, Barrow, Anaktuvuk Pass,
21 Fairbanks, and Anchorage. So that we accurately record your
22 comments tonight, I will call the names of those who have
23 indicated they wish to speak and invite you to come to the
24 microphone, this one. You will then state your name, state the
25 organization you represent, if any, and then make your

1 comments. (Speaks in Inupiak)

2 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: My voice is funny. (Translates) I
3 have to put my mind in Inupiak. Oh, I didn't finish.
4 (Translates)

5 MR. BROWER: If you have written comments, I will ask
6 you to provide them to Liz - this is Liz on my left - and they
7 will be included as part of the record of this hearing. I will
8 ask each speaker to limit your comments to around five minutes.
9 If you reach the time limit, I may ask you for a summary of
10 your comments and then request that you step down to let others
11 speak. Since there's not that many, I may waive that as your
12 hearing officer.

13 When we complete the list of people wishing to speak,
14 and if time allows, I will offer you another opportunity to
15 speak. Before we begin to take comments, I would like to
16 stress that our meeting tonight is specifically to hear
17 comments and concerns related to the Alpine Satellite
18 Development Plan and the 810 ANILCA finding in it. Your
19 comments will serve several purposes: They will tell us if we
20 have correctly identified the resources of the area, uses of
21 these lands, and the potential effects of the different
22 alternatives in the D- -- Draft EIS. There are four drafts --
23 four alternatives they'll discuss. You can suggest other
24 alternatives that will reduce or eliminate effects on land and
25 resources needed for subsistence purposes. You can also tell

1 us if the proposed subsistence finding in the Draft EIS are
2 accurate or whether they have left anything about subsistence
3 evaluation.

4 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: (Translates)

5 MR. BROWER: Okay. I will call on those that have
6 indicated that they want to speak. And do we have that list?

7 MS. POTTER: There was nobody on the list that
8 indicated specifically that they wanted to speak, so you might
9 just ask.

10 MR. BROWER: (Speaks in Inupiak) Gail, the -- if you
11 didn't understand why we have the sign-in sheet over there, you
12 can mark whether you want to testify or not. Because we don't
13 often have this privilege in villages like here, it's an
14 opportunity whether you want to make a comment to or against or
15 if you like certain portions of -- rather than -- remember, it
16 used to be just Alpine Field Site and now they don't want just
17 Alpine; they want to drill five more around there. That's
18 going to have an effect, environmental effect on hunting, on
19 the land, on the water, on the -- and on the resources. So
20 this is your opportunity to -- if you didn't understand what
21 this is, that's the intent of this meeting tonight.

22 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Could we -- could we show them
23 those three one by one?

24 MR. BROWER: Yeah.

25 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Those, I mean, four.

1 MR. BROWER: Gary, is that all right?

2 MR. FOREMAN: Sure.

3 MR. BROWER: I don't think they've had the -- we've had
4 these public meetings to let them completely understand what
5 the nature of the -- I know you had this workshop and I
6 don't -- I don't know if there were people here that came for
7 the workshop or the open house.

8 MR. FOREMAN: There were a couple, but not a lot of
9 people.

10 MR. BROWER: Okay.

11 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: (Translates)

12 MR. FOREMAN: Do we want to gather at the tables or do
13 you want me to just -- I can.....

14 MR. BROWER: Just put them here. Maybe we can.....

15 MR. FOREMAN: I can stand up here and hold them up
16 and.....

17 MR. BROWER: Yeah.

18 MR. FOREMAN: And that would be fine.

19 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yeah.

20 MR. BROWER: You could just hold it up here on one --
21 real quick. (Speaks in Inupiak)

22 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: (Speaks in Inupiak)

23 MR. BROWER: (Speaks in Inupiak)

24 MR. FOREMAN: This is ConocoPhillips' proposal.

25 MR. BROWER: (Speaks in Inupiak)

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Are they going to -- excuse me. Are
2 they going to surround the whole Village of Nuiqsut for those
3 drillings?

4 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: (Speaks in Inupiak)

5 MR. BROWER: (Speaks in Inupiak)

6 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Who wants this?

7 MR. BROWER: BLM.

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: BLM.

9 MR. FOREMAN: This is one of the alternatives BLM has
10 developed.

11 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: (Translates) How high is that pipe
12 from the ground?

13 MR. BROWER: From the river, 20 feet.

14 MR. FOREMAN: No. From the ground on this alternative,
15 is it five or seven?

16 MR. BROWER: Oh, I heard in Nuiqsut it was five.

17 MR. NAGY: Five.

18 MR. FOREMAN: Okay. For this alternative it's five
19 feet from the ground.

20 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: This high (indicates by measurement
21 by placing her hand on top of her head).

22 (General laughter)

23 MR. FOREMAN: We've got other alternatives where it's
24 seven feet and we can take pieces of one alternative and use it
25 in another alternative if we like.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I believe caribou is taller than five
2 feet.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's what I mentioned that last
4 time they had meeting. Some antlers, they go pretty high.

5 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay. The next one.

6 MR. FOREMAN: The next one is C.

7 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: And C, it goes.....

8 MR. FOREMAN: Is another BLM alternative.

9 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay. (Speaks in Inupiak)

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's going to affect the hunting of
11 the village people, huh, if they start to drill around there?
12 Is that the only place they find oil?

13 MR. BROWER: (Speaks in Inupiak)

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh.

15 MR. BROWER: This is the most potential -- most likely
16 area that these companies are.....

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: If they want to go out hunting, they
18 have to go by these wells?

19 MR. BROWER: Yes.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Underneath -- they go under the five
21 feet?

22 MR. BROWER: Uh-huh.

23 MR. FOREMAN: Okay. The other thing is the bridge,
24 instead of being way up here on the Nigliq Channel, the
25 bridge -- actually, from way up here, it's moved way down the

1 south here.

2 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay. (Translates)

3 MR. BROWER: (Speaks in Inupiak)

4 MR. NAGY: And outside the road going out to the.....

5 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yeah.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And that bridge would be going across
7 the Colville?

8 MR. BROWER: Well, it's Nigliq. Colville River is
9 right here.

10 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Colville (speaks in Inupiak). It's
11 under the river. I'm sorry.

12 MR. BROWER: Okay.

13 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: It's on right here. This is
14 already.....

15 MR. FOREMAN: No, no.

16 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: That blue one is already existing.
17 Right?

18 MR. FOREMAN: Oh, yes, yes.

19 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: And it's under -- goes under the
20 river. That's what I'm saying, yeah.

21 MR. FOREMAN: Yeah.

22 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: (Translates)

23 MR. FOREMAN: And it goes under the river with the
24 pipeline; the pipeline goes under the Nigliq Channel.

25 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: (Translates)

1 MR. BROWER: (Speaks in Inupiak) Alternative D.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I see Alternative E?

3 MR. BROWER: Alternative E (speaks in Inupiak)

4 MR. NAGY: No action.

5 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: No action.

6 MR. BROWER: No action. Okay. Alternative E is
7 (speaks in Inupiak)

8 MR. FOREMAN: One other thing on these maps, over here
9 is state land.

10 MR. BROWER: Yeah.

11 MR. FOREMAN: This is Kuukpik land and this is public
12 land, BLM-managed NPR-A.

13 MR. BROWER: Okay. (Translates) I'm just making an
14 observation in Nuiqsut that several elders said that this is
15 that high ground, rather than like a mud flat or the sand dune
16 area.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Who owns the subsurface in that
18 Nuiqsut land?

19 MR. BROWER: ASRC.

20 MR. MAJORS: ASRC does.

21 MR. BROWER: Okay.

22 MR. FOREMAN: Thank you.

23 MR. BROWER: We have explained what we thought could be
24 maybe a better idea for you, if you really want to make a
25 comment now and if you understand the nature of this public

1 hearing. We have one, Doreen, she's marked yes to testify.

2 Doreen, you want to make your comments now.

3 MS. SIMMONS: I'll move to the comment chair.

4 MR. BROWER: Doreen Simmons. Okay.

5 MS. SIMMONS: Doreen Simmons, for the record. I'm
6 concerned also about the.....

7 MR. BROWER: Can you state your organization or if
8 you're representing yourself?

9 MS. SIMMONS: I'm at the moment representing myself.

10 MR. BROWER: Okay.

11 MS. SIMMONS: I'm concerned about the height of the
12 pipeline. I'm concerned about the hunting, the subsistence
13 hunting that will be impacted like it has been in Nuiqsut, and
14 I'm concerned that there is not enough time. March 1 is only
15 how many days away? There's not enough time to make -- make
16 any comments or even write a letter. (Translates) This place
17 is going to look like Texas.

18 MR. BROWER: Doreen, can you explain in the hunting,
19 you said it will make it different, can you make -- expound on
20 that? What do you mean, it will make it different?

21 MS. SIMMONS: The hunting will be impacted because the
22 caribou -- for one, I know the caribou won't be able to cross
23 from one -- one side of the pipeline to the other. And the
24 caribou and other animal are impacted because of too much human
25 activity, too many building, too many cars.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Too many airplanes.

2 MS. SIMMONS: Too many airplanes.

3 MR. BROWER: Well, you're -- the difference is that you
4 feel that it will negatively impact the subsistence area?

5 MS. SIMMONS: It will negatively impact the subsistence
6 area.

7 MR. BROWER: Is there a comment that you can provide
8 how that can be mitigated or how do you think that it should be
9 handled?

10 MS. SIMMONS: Do plan E.

11 MR. BROWER: Plan E?

12 MS. SIMMONS: No -- no more -- no more building of any
13 pads. This is -- this little footprint that they promised is
14 getting bigger and bigger. That's not good.

15 MR. BROWER: Okay. Liz, did you get that?

16 COURT REPORTER: (Nods)

17 MR. BROWER: Okay. (Speaks in Inupiak)

18 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: I think she did enough to speak
19 both languages.

20 MR. BROWER: (Translates) Any other comments?

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Speaks in Inupiak)

22 MR. BROWER: Okay. Virginia Brower supports that
23 concept that Doreen spoke. She's an elder from Atqasuk. Okay.
24 That is the only other person that I have marked "yes" to
25 testify. I'm going to give one last opportunity for anyone to

1 make a comment.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Speaks in Inupiak)

3 MR. BROWER: (Speaks in Inupiak) This is -- this
4 is.....

5 MS. AIKEN: I'm sorry. My name is Kate Aiken. (Speaks
6 in Inupiak)

7 MR. BROWER: Her comments are -- what was the name
8 again?

9 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Kate Aiken, A-i-k-e-n. She
10 commented that her daughter was in Nuiqsut recently and sent
11 her some whitefish that they catch over there.

12 MR. BROWER: Arctic cisco.

13 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Arctic cisco. (Speaks in Inupiak)
14 And she noticed they're very different. They're not fat,
15 they're -- her comment I think had to do with impact of the
16 activity that's going on around Nuiqsut. Am I right?

17 MR. BROWER: Yes.

18 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yeah.

19 MR. BROWER: She doesn't like the result of that. She
20 feels that this is part of the impacted area and have upset the
21 nutritional and dietary supplement from Arctic -- these cisco.
22 Okay. Anybody else? Tom Brower, Jr.? Put a chair right there
23 by the -- could you put that chair closer to the Mike.

24 MR. TOM BROWER, JR.: (Speaks in Inupiak)

25 MR. BROWER: Okay. Thank you, Tom Brower. Tom

1 Brower, Jr.

2 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: He talked a little bit about last
3 year when he went to this area where they have this oil
4 activity. He got close to one of the oil wells and noticed
5 that there was a lot of dead caribou and -- and he didn't even
6 stay long enough to hunt or anything. He thought maybe that
7 caribou was negatively impacted by the activity that was going
8 on there. He used the word poisoned. I'm sure you understood
9 that; that he -- he thought that they were really badly
10 affected. But he also added that if there is to be a pipeline,
11 he would support the one that has the roads built to the oil
12 well rather than using airplanes to go back and forth between
13 the -- between the drilling sites.

14 MR. BROWER: That will better alleviate.....

15 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yeah. Right along the pipeline.
16 The roads along the pipeline, is what he said.

17 MR. BROWER: This is to minimize negative impact by
18 aircraft that are going down because the debris and waste can
19 be picked up by other vehicles on that. One other note that he
20 alluded to on the dead caribou is that several of them were --
21 looked like they had flopped like exhausted and died from
22 exhaustion. Whether that's negatively impacted from all the
23 activity -- the point that he went to, he has a house over at
24 Inigok. He was in that vicinity. He was so frustrated about
25 that, it took him a long while from here to get over the -- he

1 didn't even camp overnight over there because of the situation
2 with that many dead caribou, that he just turned around and
3 came back to this side of the Ikpikpuk River.

4 So that is the negative effects on the caribou that he
5 witnessed. (Speaks in Inupiak) Anybody else?

6 Hearing none, since I'm the hearing officer, I will
7 officially close the hearing and then we'll -- the staff of BLM
8 and the state personnel and EPA are here. They are to take
9 some questions and feedback if you need maybe to -- so that you
10 can enhance your knowledge for your written comments maybe
11 between now and March 1st, so that you can do that. So the
12 hearing is officially closed at 7:56 p.m.

13 (Off record)

14 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

15 * * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.

STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Elizabeth D'Amour, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, residing at Fairbanks, Alaska, and court reporter for Liz D'Amour & Associates, Inc., do hereby certify:

That the annexed and foregoing ALPINE SATELLITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, PUBLIC MEETING PROCEEDINGS was taken before me on the 24th day of February 2004, beginning at the hour of 7:00 o'clock p.m., at Village Community Hall, Atqasuk, Alaska;

That this hearing, as heretofore annexed, is a true and correct transcription of the testimony of said PUBLIC MEETING, taken by me electronically and thereafter transcribed by me;

That the hearing has been retained by me for the purpose of filing the same with the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 222 West 7th Avenue, Suite 13, Anchorage, Alaska, as required by law.

That I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I financially interested in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 25th day of February, 2004.

Notary Public in and for Alaska
My commission expires: 12/28/06

S E A L